

Mr. President.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Senator Hoagland.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Mr. President and colleagues, I have distributed some materials on LB 631 that are self-explanatory. The first is a synopsis of the bill as it would be amended with the Judiciary Committee amendments. The second item is in another Point of View column written by an Omaha police officer that appeared in yesterday's World Herald that simply discusses the general success and the general good luck that we have had with our drunk driving statutes the last four years. Let me discuss the committee amendments first. They deal with some interesting somewhat complicated issues in the area of drunk driving. The most important thing that the committee amendments do are that they make some adjustments in the second offense and third offense penalties that they require that the jail sentences, the mandatory jail sentences be served on consecutive days and it also does one of the principal items that is set out in the handout here and that is it creates an offense of causing serious bodily injury while driving while intoxicated to fill the gap between ordinary DWI and motor vehicular homicide. So with that, Mr. President, I would ask the adoption of the committee amendments and I will more fully explain the bill in a moment.

SPEAKER NICHOL: Any discussion on the amendments? Senator Higgins.

SENATOR HIGGINS: Thank you, Mr. President. Just a question, Senator Hoagland, my aide was talking to me while you were talking. Do the committee amendments talk about the serving of a jail sentence consecutively or is that in the bill itself?

SENATOR HOAGLAND: Senator Higgins, it is in the bill itself, but the committee amendments make that provision applicable only to first offense penalties.

SENATOR HIGGINS: But in the bill itself you are saying...the part I am referring to is it would also require that sentences of imprisonment to be served on consecutive days, so that is not in your amendments.

SENATOR HOAGLAND: That's right. The amendments change that